

My name is Roger Levesque and I live in Newington CT. I'm here to give you my 2 cents on a couple issues that I, and a majority of your constituents feel, are important.

I dare you to try and find someone that has not been affected by or is only one degree away from cancer.

I have personally had multiple family members and dear friends, not lose their battle, but run out of time in their fight with cancer. I can't help but think that some of them could have been saved if they had caught it earlier.

My father in law who had actually become one of my friends, Gary Scheyd, was told he had pneumonia for over 3 months before they did an MRI and found a mass. It was a very aggressive form of cancer. They found it too late, Gary ran out of time in his fight 7 months later.

3 1/2 years ago my sister, Diane, was diagnosed with a cancer that is the most harmless and easily treated when caught early, melanoma. Unfortunately she was told not to worry about that new mole by her regular doctor, so her cancer turned into one of the most deadliest when it metastasizes. Diane ran out of time on April 28th 2014. She was the strength in life when I needed it and I miss her every day.

You have an opportunity to make sure someone else's Gary or Diane has a chance with funding programs like the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Programs. This program could possibly save one of your spouses, one of your siblings, a parent, maybe a child of yours.

You also have an opportunity to help the tobacco users in this state. My friend Gary was a smoker, it's probably what brought on the lung cancer. But think if he was educated about the dangers of tobacco when he first started.

I have a 13 year old daughter named Evelyn and a 10 year old son named Brandon. It scares me to death that even with a good upbringing that they will one day try some sort of tobacco product. I know how addictive it is, I was hooked for 28 years. Until losing Gary scared me to quit.

If you don't find a way to restore funding for tobacco control programs, many of the kids in this state won't get the kick in the rear they need to stay away from it.

As a cancer advocate for ACS CAN it blows my mind that a conscious decision was made by this State's leaders to eliminate funding for this program. We are by far, one of the worst states in the Union in what we spend on tobacco control programs. We are spending less than 10% of the CDC's recommended amount on Tobacco Control Programs.

My kids are both worth more than 0 dollars. Please restore funding to CT's Tobacco Control Programs! And please continue funding the state's breast and cervical cancer early detection program!

Thank you!